

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1067

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, IS

SUBJECT: TRANSITITONAL QUARTER ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 2651

1. GOI PRESS OFFICE ISSUED BULLETIN ON APRIL 13 REPORTING AMOS ERAN'S REMARKS MADE ON APRIL 12 REPEAT APRIL 12 REGARDING TRANSITIONAL QUARTER ASSISTANCE. SINCE LANGUAGE DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM OUR TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM YESTERDAY'S HEBREW PRESS, WE ARE REPORTING FULL TEXT OF BULLETIN AS FOLLOWS.

2. "ERAN: FORGOING 'QUARTERLY' AID WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

A. FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE AID FOR THE FIFTH QUARTER WOULD BE MISTAKE, EXCEEDING THE MERE BOUNDS OF AID IN GENERAL. THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY MR. AMOS ERAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

B. THE AID FOR THE FIFTH QUARTER, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL STRESSED, WAS ESSENTIAL IN ITSELF, THE LARGER PART OF IT BEING EARMARKED FOR STRENGTHENING THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES. IN THE COURSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. ERAN NOTED, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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TOLD MR. RABIN THAT IF CONGRESS INITIAITED LEGISLATIVE

PROCEDURES ON THE SUBJECT--THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT BE
OPPOSED. DR. KISSINGER HAD ALSO SAID THIS TO SENATOR HUMPHREY,
RESULTING IN INITIATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE IN
THE SENATE WHICH LED TO A CLEAR-CUT DECISION ON THE ISSUE.

C. 'ON 8 MARCH,' MR. ERAN WENT ON TO SAY, 'ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS ROBERT MCCLOSKY
EVEN ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT TO SENATOR INOUE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE. ON 15 MARCH,
PRESIDENT FORD REITERATED THIS POSITION AT THIS MEETING
IN WASHINGTON WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE
PRESIDENT CHANGED HIS STAND.

D. 'IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ACTUALLY
FOUND IT NECESSARY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO VETO CONGRESS
ACTION ON VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING MOST U.S. CITIZENS.
ALL THE SAME, A UNILATERAL ISRAELI RELINQUISHMENT (OF THE
AID) WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PRE-
SENTATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR ECONOMIC REQUIRE-
MENTS, AND WOULD PLACE OUR MANY FRIENDS IN CONGRESS IN A
DIFFICULT POSITION. A REASONABLE COMPROMISE, TO BE ACHIEVED
BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT
WITHOUT ISRAELI INTERVENTION, OUGHT THEREFORE TO BE SOUGHT.'"
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